

Testimony from Area IV Agency on Aging Case Management
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I would like to present a picture of the clients we serve with Home and Community Based Services also known as the Medicaid Waiver program. These individuals were productive working members of society. Due to aging and a decline in health, services have become necessary for these people. The majority of them qualify for Medicaid through the medically needy program which means they pay a "spend down" also known as an incurment each month to meet the Medicaid guideline. This can either be done by making a cash payment to the state of Montana or by paying for a portion of their "waiver" services.

These individuals are just that, individuals with very interesting histories. A sample of some of their careers include; ranchers, railroad workers, truck drivers, bookkeepers, health care workers, international attorney, photographer, hospitality workers, engineer, teacher and seamstress.

Providing rate increases for our providers, especially our assisted living providers is of utmost importance. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find assisted living facilities that will accept or have openings for a Medicaid Waiver individual. Reimbursement differences can be \$500 to \$1000 per month.

70% of our clients are over the age of 80, with half of those folks being over 90 years old. Prior to needing Medicaid Waiver services these individuals have spent their remaining resources caring for themselves. Please assist them in remaining in the home of their choice and funding this very important program!